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# BOOK OF QUINTE ESSENCE

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The Book of Quinte Essence

or

The Fifth Being.



The  
Book of Quinte Essence  
or  
The Fifth Being;  
That is to say,  
Man's Heaben.

A tretice in englisch breuely drawe out of þe book of quintis  
essencijs in latyn, þat hermys þe prophete and  
kyng of Egipt, after þe flood of Noe,  
fadir of philosophris, hadde by  
reuelacioun of an aungil  
of god to him  
sende.

EDITED FROM THE SLOANE MS. 73, ABOUT 1460-70 A. D.

BY

FREDERICK J. FURNIVALL, M. A.

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BY T. COMBE, M.A., E. PICKARD HALL, AND H. LATHAM, M.A.,  
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THE odd account of the origin of this Treatise—in its first lines—caught my eye as I was turning over the leaves of the Sloane Manuscript which contains it. I resolved to print it as a specimen of the curious fancies our forefathers believed in (as I suppose) in Natural Science, to go alongside of the equally curious notions they put faith in in matters religious. And this I determined on with no idea of scoffing, or pride in modern wisdom, for I believe that as great fallacies now prevail in both the great branches of knowledge and feeling mentioned, as ever were held by man. Because once held by other men, and specially by older Englishmen, these fancies and notions have, or should have, an interest for all of us; and in this belief, one of them is presented here.

The loss of our sweet, bright, only child, and other distress, have prevented my getting up any cram on the subject of Quintessence to form a regular Preface. The (translated?) original of the text is attributed to Hermes—Trismegistus, “or the thrice great Interpreter,” so called as “having three parts of the Philosophy of the whole world”<sup>\*</sup>—to whom were credited more works than he wrote. The tract appears to be a great fuss about Spirits of Wine; how to make it, and get more or

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<sup>\*</sup> The Mirror of Alchimy, composed by the thrice-famous and learned Fryer, Roger Buchon, 1597.

less tipsy on it, and what wonders it will work, from making old men young, and dying men well, to killing lice.

The reading of the proof with the MS. was done by Mr. Edmund Brock, the Society's most careful and able helper. To Mr. Cockayne I am indebted for the identification of some names of plants, &c.; and to Mr. Gill of University College, London, for some Notes on the Chemistry of the treatise, made at the request of my friend Mr. Moreshwar Atmaram. The Sloane MS. I judge to be about, but after, 1460 A.D.† The later copy (Harleian MS. 853, fol. 66) seems late 16th century or early 17th,† and has been only collated for a few passages which require elucidation. The full stops and pause marks of the MS. and text require to be disregarded occasionally in reading.

EGHAM, 16th May, 1866.

† Mr. E. A. Bond of the British Museum has kindly looked at the MSS., and puts the Sloane at 1460-70 A.D., and the Harleian at about 1600.

# THE BOOK OF QUINTE ESSENCE

## OR THE FIFTH BEING ;

THAT IS TO SAY,

### MAN'S HEAVEN.

[Sloane MS. 73, fol. 10. Brit. Mus.]

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#### BOOK I.

With þe myzt, wisdom, *and* grace of þe holy trynite, I write to  
you a tretice in englich breuely drawe out of þe book of  
quintis essencijs in latyn, þat hermys þe prophete and kyng  
of Egipt, after þe flood of Noe, fadir of philosophris, hadde  
by reuelacioun of an aungil of god to him sende. þat þe  
wijsdom and þe science of þis book schulde not perische.  
but be kept and preserued, vnto þe eende of þe world, of alle  
holy men from al wickid peple and tyrauntis for greet perilis  
þat myzte falle þerof. For wiþinne þis breue tretis, wiþ þe  
grace of god. I wole more determine of practif\* þan of theorik.  
3itt ben boþe nedeful / The firste and souereyneste priuete þat  
god, maker of kynde, ordeyned for mannys nede, how þat olde  
euangelik men, and feble in kynde, myzte be restorid, and haue  
a3en her firste strenkþis of 3ongþe in þe same degree þat is in  
al kynde. *and* be mad hool parfiztly, except þe strok of þe  
pundir blast, *and* violent brusuris, and oppressynge of to myche  
betynge / Also perilous fallyngis of hiz placis, to myche absty-  
nence, *and* opere yuel gouernance a3ens kynde. And also þe  
teerme þat is sett of god, þat noman may a-schape. as Iob seip in  
latyn / “Breues dies hominis sunt &c.” Forsope philosophris

[Fol. 10.]  
By the grace  
of God I  
translate you  
this Treatise  
revealed to  
Hermes by  
an angel after  
Noah's flood,  
that the  
knowledge of  
this book  
may be pre-  
served to the  
end of the  
world.

[\* practise.  
MS. Harl.]  
God's greatest  
secret for  
man's need is  
how to re-  
store old fee-  
ble men to  
the strength  
of their youth.

except in case  
of thunder-  
blast, and  
too much  
fasting,  
and the term  
set for all  
men.

[Nota.]

The purest substance of corruptible things is Quinte Essence or man's heaven.

[\* Fol. 10b.]

Quinte Essence is incorruptible as to the four qualities of man's body,

but not as the heaven of God.

It is called,  
1. Burning Water; 2. the Soul in the spirit of Wine; 3. Water of Life; and if you wish to conceal it, Quinte Essence.

It is neither moist and cold like water,

nor hot and moist like air,

nor cold and dry like earth, nor hot and dry like fire.

It gives incorruptibility,

[\* Fol. 11.]  
for it prevents dead flesh from rotting,

and much more the living flesh of man. It is Man's Heaven,

clepen þe purest substaunce of manye corruptible þingis elementid. quinta essencia. þat is to seie, mannys heuene, drawe out by craft of mani. for whi. as quinta essencia superior. þat is, heuene of oure lord god, in reward of þe .iiij. elementis, is yncorruptible *and* vnchaungeable / riȝt so \*quinta essencia superior inferior. þat is to seie, mannys heuene, is incorruptible, in reward of þe .4. qualitees of mannys body, and so it is preued naturally þat oure quinta essencia, þat is, mannes heuene, in it-silf<sup>1</sup> is incorruptible. and so it is not hoot and drie wiþ fier / ne coold and moist wiþ watir / ne hoot *and* moist with eyr. ne coold and drie wiþ erþe. but oure quinta essencia awayliþ to þe contrarie as heuene incorruptible / But vndirstonde þat oure qui[n]ta essencia is nouȝt so incorruptible as is heuene of oure lord god. but it is incorruptible in reward of composicioun maad of þe .4. elementis. *and* it hath .iiij. names by the philosophis. þat is to seie / brennyng watir / þe soule in þe spirit of wyn, *and* watir of lijf / But whanne ȝe wole concelle it. þanne schal ȝe clepe it oure quinta essencia. for þis name, *and* þe nature þerof, riȝt fewe philosophis wolde schewe / but sikurly þei biriede þe truþe with hem. and witip weel þat it is clepid brennyng watir. and it is no brennyng watir. forwhi. it is not moist ne coold as comoun watir. for it brenneþ, *and* so doiþ not comyn watir. ne it is nat hoot and moist as air. for air corrunpiþ a þing a-noon, as it schewiþ weel by generacioun of flies, *and* areins, and sicke opere. but sikirly þis is alwey incorruptible. if it be kept cloos fro fliȝt / Also it is not coold and drie as erþe. for souereynly it worchip *and* chaungiþ. And it is not hoot and drie as fier, as it schewiþ by experience. for hoot þingis it keliþ. *and* hoot siȝknessis it doiþ away / Also þat it ȝeueþ incorruptibilite, and kepiþ a þing fro corruptibilite \*and rotyng, it is preued þus / Forwhi. what pece of fleisch, fisch, or deed brid, be putt þerinne. it schal not corru[m]pe ne rote whilis it is þerinne / miche more þanne it wole kepe quyk fleisch of mannys body from al manere corruptibilite and rotyng / This is oure quinta essencia. þat is to seie, mannys heuene, þat god made to þe con-

<sup>1</sup> [MS. siff.]

seruacioun of þe .4. qualitees of mannys body. riȝt as he made his heuene to þe conseruacioun of al þe world / And wite ȝe for certeyn þat manye philosophoris and lechis þat ben now, knowe nouȝt þis quinta essencia, ne þe truþe þerof / Forwhi ; god wole not þat þei knowe it. for her greet brenmynge coueitise *and* vicious lyuyngē / Forsope quinta essencia superior. þat is to seie, heuene of oure lord god bi him silf. / Aloone / ȝeueþ not conseruacioun in þe world, and wondirful influence. but by þe vertue af þe sunne. planetis, and opere sterris. riȝt so oure quinta essencia, þat is, mannys heuene, wole be maad fair wiþ þe sunne mineralle, fynyd, schynynge, incorruptibile; and euene in qualite þat fier may not appeire, corruppe, ne distroie. and þis is *very* gold of þe myn. of þe erþe. or of þe floodis gaderid / for gold of alkamy maad *with* corosyues distroieþ kynde. as aristotle and manye opere philosophoris prouen / and þerfore good gold naturel, *and* of þe myn of þe erþe, is clepid of philosophoris sol in latyn. for he is þe sonne of oure heuene. lich as sol þe planet is in þe heuene aboue. for þis planete ȝeueþ to gold his influence, nature, colour, *and* a substaunce incorruptible. And oure quinta essencia, mannys heuene, is of þe nature *\*and* þe colour of heuene / And oure sol, þat is, fyn gold of þe myne, schal make it fair, riȝt as sol þe planete makip heuene fair / and so þese two togidere ioyned schal ȝeue influence in us. and þe condiciouns of heuene and of heuenly sonne / in as miche as it is possible in deedly nature, conseruacioun and restorynge of nature lost, *and* renewynge of ȝongþe / And it schal ȝeue plenteuously heelpē. and so it is preued by astronomy aboue. þat sterris þat haþ influence vpon þe heed and þe necke of man / as ben þe sterris of aries. taurus, and gemini, ȝeuen influence syngulerly vpon Gerapigra galieni / And þerfore it haþ a synguler strekþe by þe ordynaunce of god to drawe away þe superflue humouris fro þe heed, þe necke, and þe brest, and not fro þe membris byneþe / And so I seie of spicis þat drawip humouris fro þe knees, þe leggis, and þe feet, þat resseyuen a synguler influence of þe sterris of Capricorn. Aquarie and pises, *and* riȝt so of opere, *et cetera* / Comourne ȝe not þis book of deuyne secretes to wickid men and auerous.

preserving his body as Heaven does the world.

Many know it not now for their covetousness and vice.

But as God's Heaven is aided by sun and stars, so our Heaven, or Quinte Essence, is made fair by the sun mineral, or pure gold of the mine, not of alchemy.

[Nota.]

Good natural gold is called Sol, because Sol the planet gives gold its power, colour, &c.

Our Quinte Essence is the  
[\* Fol. 11b.]

colour of heaven; gold makes it fair; and the two work in us (so far as is possible) renewal of youth, and give health plenteously.

As Aries, Taurus, and Gemini draw humours from the head and breast, and

[Nota.] not the limbs beneath, so those spices that do draw from these limbs get their power from Capricorn, &c.

Tell not these divine secrets to wicked men.

To make  
Quinte Es-  
sence.

Take the best  
wine, or any  
not sour;

distil it, and  
the 4 Ele-  
ments shall be  
left like dregs.  
Distil 7 times  
to get Burn-  
ing Water;

[\* Fol. 12.]

put this in a  
Distiller in a  
furnace, and  
let the vapour  
rise, condense,  
and be dis-  
tilled till it is  
turned into  
Quinte Es-  
sence, and  
parted from  
the 4 ele-  
ments.

[Nota.]

Distil it 1000  
times,  
and it shall be  
glorified and  
become a  
medicine in-  
corruptible as  
heaven.

After many  
days unstop  
your distiller,

and if there  
issues out a  
heaven-sweet  
savour, you  
[\* Fol. 12b.]  
have our  
Quinte Es-  
sence. If not,  
distil again  
till you have,

but kepe 3e it in priuete / Take þe beste wiyn þat 3e may  
fynde, if 3e be of power. and if 3e be riȝt pore. þanne take  
corrupt wiyn, þat is, rotyn, of a watery humour. but not egre,  
þat is sour, for þe quint essencia þerof is naturally incorruptible,  
þe which 3e schal drawe out by sublymacioun / And þanne  
schal þer leue in þe ground of þe vessel þe .4. elementis, as it  
were, rotun fecis of wiyn / But firste 3e muste distille þis wiyn.  
7. tymes. and þanne haue 3e good brennyng watir / Forsoþe,  
þis is þe watri mater \*fro which is drawe oure quinta essencia /  
Thanne muste 3e do make in þe furneis of aischin, a distillatorie  
of glas al hool of oo. pece, wip an hoole a-boue in þe heed where  
þe watir schal be putt yn. and be take out / And þis is a  
wondirful instrument þat þat þing þat by vertues of fier ascendith  
and distillith wipinne þe vessel. per canales brachiales. þat is, by  
pipis lich to armys, be bore aȝen, and eftsoones ascendith, and  
eft descendip contynuely day and nyȝt til þe brennyng water  
heuenly be turned into quintam essenciam / And so bi con-  
tinuelle ascenciouns and discenciouns. þe quinta essencia is  
departid fro þe corruptible composicioun of þe .4. elementis.  
For bifore þat þing þat is twis sublymed is more glorified, and  
is more sotil, and fer from þe corrupcioun of þe .4. elementis  
more separat þan whanne it ascendith but oonys. and so vnto  
a þousand tymes. so þat by contynuel ascendyng. and descend-  
yng by the which it is sublymed to so myche hiznes of glorifi-  
cacioun. it schal come þat it schal be a medicyn incorruptible  
almoost as heuene aboue, and of þe nature of heuene / And  
þerfore oure quinta essencia worþily is clepid mannys heuene /  
And aftir manye daies þat it hath be in þis sotil vessel of glas  
distillid / 3e schulen opene þe hoole of þe vessel in þe heed þat  
was selid with þe seel of lute of wiȝsdom, maad of þe sotillest  
flour, and of white of eyren, and of moist papere, ymeyngid so  
þat no þing respire out / And whane 3e opene þe hoole. if þer  
come out a passyng heuenly swete flauour þat alle men þat  
come yn naturely \*drawe þerto. þanne 3e haue oure quinta  
essencia / and ellis sele þe vessel, and putte it to þe fier aȝen  
til 3e haue it.

And another maner worching of oure quinta essencia is  
 pis / Take þe noblest and þe strengest brennyng watir þat 3e  
 may haue distillid out of pure myzty wyyn. and putte it into  
 a glas clepid amphora, with a long necke / and close þe moup  
 strongly wip wex ; And loke þat half or þe þridde part be fulle.  
 and birie it al in hors dounge, preparate as it is seid hereafter /  
 so þat þe necke of þe glas be turned downward, and þe botum  
 be turned vpward. þat by vertu of þe hors dounge þe quinta  
 essencia ascende vp to þe botum. And þe grosté of þe mater  
 of þe watir descende downward to þe necke / And aftir manye  
 daies, whanne 3e take it out, softly lift vp þe glas as it stondith,  
 and 3e schal se in pickenes and cleernesse a difference bitwene  
 þe quintam essenciam sublymed, and þe grose mater þat is in þe  
 necke / þe wondirful maistry of departyng of þat oon fro þat  
 oþer is pis / Take a scharp poyntel, or a pricke of yren, and  
 peerse into þe wex þat hongip in þe moup of þe glas azens þe  
 erþe / and whanne 3e haue peersid al fully to þe watir. take out  
 þe poyntel or þe pricke / And þat erþely watir wole first come  
 out þat is in þe necke / and so til it be come out vnto þe  
 departinge bitwixe it / and þe quinte essence, þat is, mannys  
 heuene sublymed. and whane 3e se þat þis quint essence wole  
 renne and melte aftir þat þis erþely watir be voydid. putte þanne  
 swiftly 3oure fyngir to þe hoole, and turne vp þe glas, and þanne  
 3e haue þerinne oure quinte essence, \*and þe erþely watir wipoute  
 aside. And þis is a passyng souereyn priuetye.

*The second  
way to make  
Quinte Es-  
sence.*

Put the  
strongest  
Burning  
Water into  
an 'amphora';  
seal it up;  
bury it neck  
downwards in  
horse-dung,  
and the  
Quinte Es-  
sence will rise  
into the globe  
and the im-  
purities settle  
in the neck.  
Take the glass  
out of the  
dung;

make a hole  
in the wax  
seal,

let out the im-  
pure earthy  
water,

and when the  
Quinte Es-  
sence would  
begin to run,  
turn the glass  
up, and keep  
[\* Fol. 13.]  
your Quinte  
Essence.

*The third  
way.*

Put your am-  
phora into a  
horse's belly  
instead of the  
dung, and  
proceed as  
aboue.

*The fourth  
way.*

Substitute for  
the amphora  
a vessel of  
glass or earth,  
with a tube  
running from  
the top and  
hanging in the  
air, into which

The þridde maner is þat 3e take a greet glas clepid amphora,  
 and seele it weel. and birie it weel in þe wombe of an hors al  
 togidere. and þe pureté of þe quinte essencie schal be sublymed  
 aboue, and þe grosté schal abide byneþe in þe botme / take out  
 softli þat þat fletip a-boue. and þat þat leueþ bihynde, putte it  
 to þe fier.

The .iiij. maner is þis. take what vessel of glas þat 3e wole,  
 or of erþe strongly glased, and þer vpon a round foot of glas  
 wip a leg. and seele þe vessel with his couertour, þat þe rod  
 of þe foot of þe glas wipinne þe vessel longe in þe eyr. þat þat  
 þing þat ascendith to þe couertour in þe maner of a pott boilyng

the vapour  
may fall and  
condense.

*The fifth way.*

Distil your  
Burning  
Water ten  
times.

*To make fire  
without fire,  
and Quinte  
Essence with-  
out cost or  
trouble.*

Put horse-  
dung into a  
vessel or pit  
lined with  
ashes, and  
place your  
vessel in it up  
to the middle.  
The cold top  
part will con-  
dense the va-  
pour caused

[\* Fol. 13b.]

by the heat of  
the dung.

Or, place your  
vessel in the  
sun's rays.

*How poor  
evangelic men  
may get the  
gracious in-  
fluence of  
gold.*

Borrow a Flo-  
rence florin of  
a rich friend,  
anneal[?heat]  
it on a plate  
of iron, and  
throw it into  
some Burning  
Water, taking  
care to quench  
the fire quick-  
ly to prevent  
the Water  
wasting.

Repeat this  
50 times

in fresh  
Water, and  
then mix all  
the Waters  
together.  
The Water  
draws out all

descende doun azen by þe foot of þe glas. and this instrument may 3e do make wipoute greet cost / The fifþe maner is þat þe brennyng water be .10 tymes distillid in hors dounge continually digest.

The science of makynge of fier wipoute fier / wherby 3e may make oure quinte essence wipoute cost or traueile. and withoute occupacioun and lesynge of tyme / Take þe beste horse dounge þat may be had þat is weel digest, and putte it wipine a uessel, or ellis a pitt maad wip þe erþe anoyntid þoruþout with past maad of aischin. And in þis vessel or pitt bete weel togidere þe dounge. And in þe myddil of þis dounge sette þe vessel of distillacioun vnto þe myddis or more / For it is nede þat al þe heed of þe vessel be in þe coold air / þat. þat þing þat bi vertu of þe fier of þe dounge þat ascendith þerby be turned into watir \*by vertu of cooldnes of þe air and falle doun azen and ascende vp azen. and þus 3e haue fier wipoute fier, and but wip litil traueile.

Also anoper maner of fier. sette 3oure vessel forseid to þe strong reuerberacioun of þe sunne in somer tyme, and lete it stonde þere nyȝt and day.

Here I wole teche 3ou how pore euangelik men may haue wipoute cost, and almoost for nouȝt, þe gracious influence of gold, and þe maner of þe fixynge of it in oure heuene, þat is, oure quinta essencia. if 3e be pore. 3e schal preie a riche man þat is 3oure freend to leene 3ou a good floreyne of florence / and anele it vpon a plate of yren as yren is anelid. and haue biside 3ou a uessel of erþe glased, fillid ful of the beste brennyng watir þat 3e may fynde. and caste into þe watir þe floreyne anelid. and loke þat 3e haue a sotilte and a sleiȝþe to quenche sodeynly þe fier, þat þe watir waaste not. and be weel war þat non yren touche þe watir. but af[t]er caste into þe watir þe floreyne, and do so .l. tymes or more, for þe oftene þe bettere it is / And if 3e se þat þe watir waaste to myche, chaunge it panne, and take newe, and do so ofte tymes. and whanne 3e haue do 3oure quenchour, putte alle þe watris togidere / And 3e schulen vnderstonde þat þe vertu of brennyng watir is sich þat naturely it drawip out of



gold alle þe vertues *and* propirtees of it, *and* it holdip incorruptibilettee *and* an euene heete. \*þanne meynge þis brennynge watir þus giltid wiþ oure quinte essence. and vse it. but be war þat 3e quenche not þe floreyne in oure quinte essence. for þanne it were lost / And if it so be þat 3e haue not þis brennynge watir redy. þanne quenche 3oure floreyne in þe beste whiȝt wiyn þat may be had / For sikirly þe philosophere seip. þat wiyn hath also þe propirtee to restreyne in it þe influence and vertues of gold / And whanne 3e haue do 3oure werk. 3e schal wite þat þe floreyne is als good, *and* almoost of þe same weiȝte, as it was afore / þerfore vse wiyn or brennynge watir giltid, so þat 3e may be hool, and wexe glad, and be ȝong. And þus 3e haue oure heuene, and þe sunne in him fixid, to þe conseruacioun of mannys nature and fixacioun of oure heuene. þat is, oure quinte essence.

The science how 3e schule gilde more myȝtily by brennynge watir or wiyn þan I tauȝte 3ou tofore, wherby þe water or þe wiyn schal take to it myȝtily þe influence *and* þe vertues of fyne gold.

Take þe calx of fyn gold as it is declarid here-aftir in þis book. and putte it in a siluer spone, and anele it at þe fier. *and* þanne caste þe calx of the gold in þe brennynge watir. or in wiyn .l. tymes, as I tauȝte 3ou tofore wiþ þe floreyne. and 3e schule haue 3oure licour by an hundrid part bettir gilt þan 3e had tofore wiþ þe floreyne / Forwhi. fier worchip more strongly and bettere \*in sotil parties þan it doip in an hool plate / And also brennynge watir or wiyn drawip out more myȝtily bi a þousand part þe propirtees of gold fro smale parties anelid þan it doip fro a picke plate / And 3e schal vnderstonde þat wiyn not aloonly holdip in it þe propirtees of gold. but myche more þe propirtees of alle liquibles if þei be quenched þerinne. and þat is a souereyn prũite. Forwhi, if 3e quenche saturne liquified in wiyn or in comoun watir .7. tymes. and aftirward in þat wiyn or watir 3e quenche mars manye tymes. þanne mars schal take algate þe neischede and þe softnes of saturne / And þe same schal venus do, *and* alle opere liquibles / or ellis. And 3e

the properties of the gold.

[\* Fol. 14.]  
Mix the gilt  
Burning  
Water with  
Quinte Es-  
sence.

You may sub-  
stitute for  
Burning  
Water best  
white wine,  
which also re-  
tains the  
powers of  
gold.

This gilt  
Water will  
make you well  
and young  
again. In it  
you have the  
Sun fixed in  
our Heaven.

How to gild  
Burning  
Water or  
Wine more  
thoroughly.

Heat calcined  
gold in a silver  
spoon and put  
it in Burning  
Water or  
wine 50 times,  
as with the  
florin before.  
Your liquor  
will be better  
gilt, as the fire  
and Water or

[\* Fol. 14b.]  
wine work  
more power-  
fully on the  
grains of gold  
than on a  
plate.

Wine retains  
the properties  
of all liquibles  
quenched in  
it.

If Saturn (lead)  
liquefied be  
quenched in  
wine, and  
then Mars (iron)  
be quenched  
in it, Mars ac-  
quires the  
softness of  
Saturn.

Again,  
if you quench  
Mars in wine  
and put in it  
Saturn lique-  
fied, this will  
be made hard.

To make fire  
without coals,  
lime, light, &c.

Mix equal  
parts of sub-  
[\* Fol. 15.]  
limated Mer-  
cury, Salt, and  
Sal Ammo-  
niac.  
grind them  
small, expose  
them to the  
air, and  
they'll turn  
into water,

a drop of  
which will eat  
thro' your  
hand, and  
make Venus  
(copper) or  
Jupiter (tin)  
like pearl.  
If it could be  
moderated it  
would cure  
the disease  
Hell fire, and  
every corro-  
sive sickness.  
It is also  
called 'Sal  
Amarus.'

To calcine  
gold.

Cut gold into  
shavings; put  
it into a cru-  
cible with  
Mercury;  
heat it, and it  
will crumble  
[\* Fol. 15b.]  
into dust like  
flour.  
Heat it more  
till the mer-  
cury goes his  
way;

quenche mars in whiȝt wiyn or in comoun watir manye tymes. and aftirward in þe same wiyn or watir ȝe caste saturne liquified ofte tymes. þanne wiþoute doute ȝe schal fynde þat þe saturne is *maad* riȝt hard / Therfore þe *propirtees* of alle liquibles may be brouȝt into wiyn or watir. but myche more myȝtily into brennynge watir good and *precious*.

The science to make a fier. þat is wiþoute cole. *without*e lyme. wiþoute liȝt. worchinge azens al maner scharpnnes or accioun of visible fier. riȝt as worchip þe fier of helle / And þis *prinytee* is so *vertuous* þat þe *vertu* þerof may not al be declarid. And þus it is *maad*. Take Mercurie þat is sublymed *with vitriol*, \**and comen salt*. *and sal armoniac* .7. or .10. tymes sublymed / and meynge hem togidere by euene porcioun. and grynde it smal. and leye it abroad vpon a marbil stoon. and by nyȝte sette it in a soft cleer eir, or ellis in a coold seler. and þere it wole turne into watir / And þanne gadere it togidere in to a strong vessel of glas, and kepe it / This water forsoþe is so strong. þat if a litil drope þerof falle vpon ȝoure hond. anon it wole *perce* it þoruȝ out. and in þe same maner it wole do if it falle vpon a plate of venus or Iubiter into þis watir, it turneþ hem into lijknnes of peerl. who so coude *reparale and preparate* kyndely þis fier, wiþoute doute it wolde quenche anon a brennynge sijknnes clepid þe fier of helle. And also it wolde heele euery cor[os]if sijknnesse. And manye philosophis clepiþ þis *ping* in her bookis *sal amarus*. al þouȝ þei teche not þe maistrie þerof / If it be so þat þis fiery watir breke þe glas and renne out into þe aischen. þanne gadere alle togidere þat ȝe fynde pastid in þe aischen / and leye it vpon a marbil stoon as afore. and it wole turne into watir. And þis is a greet *prinytee*.

The science to brynge gold into calx / Take fyn gold and make it into smal lymayl. take a crusible wiþ a good *quan- titee* of Mercurie, and sette it to a litil fier so þat it vapoure not, and putte þerinne þi lymail of gold, and stire it weel togi- dere / *and* aftirward \*wiþinne a litil tyme ȝe schal se al þe gold wiþinne þe Mercurie turned into erþe as sotil as flour. þanne ȝeue it a good fier þat þe Mercurie arise and go his wey, or ellis

and 3e wole 3e may distille and gadere it, puttynge *per*-vpon a lembike / and in þe corusable 3e schal fynde þe gold caleyned and reducid into erþe / And if 3e wole not make lymayl of gold, þanne make *perof* a sotil þinne plate, as 3e kan, and putte wipþinne þe *Mercurie* al warm. and 3e schal haue 3oure desier / And in þis same maner 3e may worche wip siluir / Thanne take þe calx of þese two bodies, and bere hem openly wip 3ou. and *per* schal noman knowe what þei ben / And if 3e wole bere hem more priuily wipoute ony knowynge, þanne meynge hem wip pich melt, or wax, or ellis gumme. for þanne noman schal knowe it what it is. And whanne 3e wole dissolue ony of þese calces by hem silf. putte eipir by him silf in a test, or ellis þe pich or þe wax in which þei ben ynne. and anon schal come out verry gold *and* siluer as þei were tofore.

Now I wole teche 3ou þe maistrie of departynge of gold fro siluir whanne þei be meyngid togidere / Forsoþe 3e woot weel þat *per* be manye werkis in þe whiche gold and siluir be meyngid, as in giltyng of vessel *and* Iewellis / *perfore* whanne 3e wole drawe þe toon fro þat opir. putte al þat mixture into a strong watir maad of vitriol and of sal petre. and þe \*siluyr wole be dissolued, and not þe gold. þanne 3e haue þat oon departid fro þe topir / And if 3e wole dissolue þe gold to watir. putte þanne yn þe watir corosyue. Sal armoniac. and þat watir wipoute doute wole dissolue gold into watir.

The science to drawe out of fyn gold v<sup>ta</sup> essencia is þis / First 3e schal reduce gold into calx as I tolde 3ou tofore / þanne take vynegre distillid, or ellis oold vryne depurid fro þe fecis. and putte it in a uessel glased. and þe liquor schal be in þe heizþe of 4. ynchis, and *perinne* caste þe calx of gold. *and* sette it to the strong sunne in somer tyme, *pere* to abide / and soone aftir 3e schal se as it were a liquor of oyle. ascende vp fletynge aboue in maner of a skyn or of a reme. gadere þat away wip a sotil sponne or ellis a fepere. and putte it into a uessel of glas in þe which be putt watir tofore. and þus gadere it manye tymes in þe day into þe tyme þat *per* ascende nomore / and aftir do vapoure away þe watir at þe fier. And þe v<sup>ta</sup> essencia af þe

or distil it, and the gold powder will be in the crucible. A thin plate of gold will do instead of shavings. and Silver may be treated like gold. To carry these powders about,

mix them with pitch, wax, or gum,

melting the mass when you want the metal.

*How to separate gold from silver when mixed with it.*

Put the mixture into a solution of vitriol and saltpetre, and [\* Fol. 16.] the silver will be dissolved. Corrosive water and sal ammoniac will dissolve the gold.

[Nota.]

*How to get out of gold its Quinte Essence.*

Put calcined gold into distilled vinegar or purified urine; set it in a hot sun; a film will soon rise; skim it off; collect all such in a glass vessel till no more rise. Evaporate the water left: the residuum

is the Quinte  
Essence of  
Gold.

[1 then, MS.  
Harl.]

And if you fix  
this Quinte  
Essence in  
our heaven,  
it will restore  
man to the  
[\* Fol. 16b.]  
strength of his  
youth.

Now I have  
[Nota.]  
told this most  
sovereign se-  
cret, which  
should not be  
shewed.  
The Quinte  
Essence of  
gold is best to  
heal wounds.

*How to get  
its Quinte  
Essence out of  
Antimony.*

Put powdered  
antimony into  
distilled vine-  
gar; heat it  
till the vine-  
gar is red;  
take away the  
red vinegar,  
and put fresh;  
take that  
away when  
red. Put the  
red vinegar  
into a dis-  
tiller, and  
1000 drops of  
blessed wine  
shall come  
down the  
pipe; collect  
this; it is an  
incomparable  
treasure.

[Nota.]

[\* Fol. 17.]

It cures the  
pain of all  
wounds,

and when fer-  
mented it  
works great  
secrets.

gold wole abyde bynepe. And manye philosophoris clepiþ þis  
*quinta* essencia an oile incombustible, þat is a greet priuytee /  
And if 3e wole fixe þis *quinta* essencia in oure heuene, þat<sup>1</sup> it  
may wipoute doute restore azen to man þat nature þat is lost.  
and reduce him azen into þe vertu of þe strenkþe of 3ongþe. and  
also lenkþiþ his lijf into þe laste terme of lijf set of god // Now  
forsope I haue toold 3ou þe souereynest \*priuytee and restorynge  
of mannys kynde. and in part greet þing þat schulde not be  
schewid / Forwhi. þis oyle. þat is to seie *quinta* essencia of gold  
hath þe mooste swetnes and vertu to a-swage and putte awei þe  
ache of woundis. and for to heele woundis, oolde sooris, and  
manye wondirful yuelis / Also in þe same maner 3e may drawe  
out of siluir *quinte* essencie //

The science to drawe out of antymony, þat is, mercasite  
of leed, þe v<sup>te</sup> essencie, is a souereyn maistrie and a priuytee  
of alle priuytees / Take þe myn of antymony aforeseid,  
and make þerof al so sotil a poudre as 3e kan / þanne  
take þe beste vynegre distillid, and putte þerinne þe poudre  
of antymonye, and lete it stonde in a glas vpon a litil fier  
into þe tyme þat þe vynegre be colourid reed. þanne take þat  
vynegre away, and kepe it clene, and putte azen þer-to of opere  
vynegre distillid, and lete it stonde vpon a soft fier til it be  
colourid reed. and so do ofte tymes. and whanne 3e haue gaderid  
al 3oure vynegre colourid. putte it þanne in a distillatorie. and  
first þe vynegre wole ascende. þanne after 3e schal se merueilis.  
for 3e schal se as it wore a þousand dropis of blessid wiyn  
discende doun in maner of reed dropis, as it were blood, by  
þe pipe of þe lymbike / þe which licour gadere togidere in a  
rotumbe / and þanne 3e haue a þing þat al þe tresour of þe world  
may not be in comparisoun of worþines þerto / aristotle seiþ þat  
it is his lede in þe book of secretis. al þou3 he \*telle not þe name  
of þe antymonye aforeseid / Forsope þis doiþ away ache of alle  
woundis, and wondirfully hecliþ. þe vertu þerof is incorruptible  
and merueilous profitable / it nedit to be putrifid in a rotombe  
and seelid in fyne. and þanne it worchiþ greet priuytees / For-  
sope þe v<sup>ta</sup> essencia of þis antymony þat is reed, in þe which is



þe secrete of alle secretis, is swettere þan any hony or sugre or any opir þing.

The science in þe extraccioun of þe .5<sup>1</sup> essence from blood, and fleisch, *and* eggis / To 3ou I seie þat in euery elementid þing þe .5. essence remayneþ incorrupte, it schal be þanne þe moost þing of merueyle if I teche 3ou to drawe out þat fro mannys blood reserued of Barbouris whanne þei lete blood. also fro fleisch of alle brute beestis, and fro alle eggis, and opere suche þingis. for als myche as mannes blood is þe perfitist werk of kynde in us, as to þe encrees of þat þat is lost, it is certeyn þat nature þat .5 essence maad so perfizt þat wipoute any opir greet preparacioun wipoute þe veynes, it berip forþ þat blood anon aftir into fleisch. and þis 5 essence is so ny3 kynde þat [it] is moost to haue<sup>2</sup> / Forwhy. in it is merueylous vertu of oure heuene sterid, and to þe cure of nature of man worchip moost deuyne myraelis, as wipinne I schal teche 3ou / þefore reseeyue of Barbouris of 3ong sanguene men, or colerik men, whanne þei be late blood, þe which vse good wynes. take þat blood aftir þat it haþ reste, and cast away þe watir fro it, and braie it wip þe .10. part of comen salt preparate to mediceyns of men. and putte it into a uessel of glas clepid amphora, þe which, sotely seele, and putte it wipinne þe \*wombe of an hors, preparate as tofore, and renewe þe fyne oonys in þe wike, or more, and lete it putrifie til al þe blood be turned into watir / and it schal be doon at þe mooste in xxx. or xl dayes, or aftir, more or lasse / þanne putte it in a lembike and distille it at a good fier / what so euere may ascende, putte þat watir vpon þe fecis brayed, meynge vpon a marbil stoon, putte it a3en, and aftir distille it a3en manye tymes recherynge / And whanne 3e haue þis noble þing of blood, þerof þe 5. beynge drawe out / putte a3en þe watir in þe stillatorie of circulacioun til 3e brynge it to so myche swetnes *and* an heuene saour. as 3e dide þe brenmynge watir. and þis is þe 5 beynge of blood deuyne, and miraelis more þan man mai bileue but if he se it.

*How to get  
its Quinte  
Essence from  
Man's Blood.*

Man's blood is the perfectest work of nature in us, and its Quinte Essence converts blood into flesh,

and works diuine miracles of healing. Get from barbers the blood of young sanguine men; let it stand; pour off the serum; mix the blood with a tenth of prepared salt; put it in an amphora; seal that up; put it in a horse's [\* Fol. 17b.] belly, renewing the dung weekly till all the blood turns into water; distil that; put the outcome on the pounded faeces, and distil over again.

Heat the water in the stiller till it comes to a heavenly saour. This Fifth Being works miracles hardly credible unless seen.

<sup>1</sup> 5 for fifth, or quinte.

<sup>2</sup> MS. Harl. reads 'and this fift beinge so nighe kinde it is most to haue.'

*To get the Quinte Essence out of capons, beasts, eggs, &c.*

Grind some of them with a tenth part of prepared salt; put 'em into a horse's belly till they become water, and distil that till it's heaven-sweet.

*To draw the Fifth Being out of each of the Four Elements, and to separate them.*

[\* Fol. 18.]

Take any thing rotted and turned into water, as man's blood; put it in a glass stiller, and distil it over into an amphora.

When no more vapour rises, you have drawn out the water.

Put the other 3 elements for 7 days into the same bath,

then into a coal fire, and the water shall rise as oil shining like gold,

the air remaining at the bottom like oil of gold. Put these aside.

Now wole I teche you to drawe out þe .5 beyng from capouns, hennys, and al maner fleisch of Brut beestis, and from al maner eggis of foulis þat ben holsum and medicyn-able to ete for mān kynde / Grynde summe of þese þingis forseid, which þat 3e wil, as strongly as 3e can in a morter, wip þe 10 part of him of sal comen preparate to þe medicyne of men, as I seide tofore. putte it in þe wombe of an hors til it be turned into water. distille as it is aforeseid, and in þe stillatorie of circulacioun þe watir þat is distillid. putte it in aȝen til it be brouȝt to þe swete heuenly sauour and smel aforeseid /

The science to drawe out þe 5 beyng of euerych of þe .4 elementis and to schewe euerych of þe forseid þing bi hem silf, and þat is riȝt merueylous / I wole not leue for a litil to schewe a greet secreet, how 3e may drawe out þe 5 beyng of ech of þe 4 elementis of al þe þing rehersed afore, and profitably schewe hem / And þe maner ys \*þis / take þat þing putrifid and brouȝt into watir. what so euere 3e wole, as I tauȝte you tofore. and þat þing be mannes blood brouȝt into watir, of þe which 3e wole drawe out þe 4 elementis / putte þerfore þat water, or þat blood putrifid, in a stillatorie of glas, and sette it wipinne a pott of watir, and ȝeue vnderneþe a fier til þe watir of blood be distillid by þe pipe of þe lembike into a glas clepid amphora, riȝt elene / And whanne no þing may more by þat fier ascende, for certeyn 3e haue of blood drawn out al oonly þe element of watir / Forwhi. fier of þat bath hath no strenkþe to sublyme eyr, or fier, or erþe. and so [take] þo þre elementis, and sette in þe same bath by .vij. dayes þat þei be weel meynȝid, and so cloos þat no þing be distillid / aftir þe .vij. dayes take þe stillatorie, and putte it to þe fier of aischen, þat is strongere þan fier of bath clepid marien. and þe watir schal ascende in foorme of oyle schynȝe as gold / and aftirward þat no þing more schal ascende, 3e haue þanne in þe ampulle .ij. elementis, þat is to seie, watir and eyr. and oon from anopir 3e schal departe in þe bath, puttyȝe yn aȝen wher al oonly þe cleer watir schal ascende / and þe eyr schal al oonly remayne in þe botum of þe vessel in lijkenesse of oyle of gold. þe which oyle þat is gold. þe which oyle

þat is ayr / putte it aside. þanne þer leueþ 3itt fier wip erþe ; to departe fier from erþe. putte þe element of watir, þat is. to seye .iiij lb of watir. vpon j lb af mater / and putte by .vij. daies to encorpere wel as tofore in þe bath of marien / Aftirward putte it to þe fier of flawme riȝt strong, and þe reed water schal ascende. þe which gadere togidere as longe as ony \*þing ascendip. and to 3ou schal remayne an erþe riȝt blak in þe botum. þe which gadere togidere aside / þanne þe redeste watir 3e schal take. forwhy. þer be .ij. elementis. þat is to seie, þe element of watir and fier. þanne yn þe stillatorie, to þe fier of baþ, cleer watir schal asende. and in þe botum schal remayne þe reed watir, þat is, þe element of fier. and so 3e haue now first oon oyle, þat is, ayer o side, and watir, and fier, and erþe. and note 3e weel þat þerfore þe element of watir is putt aȝen to drawe out from erþe fier and eyr, for þei wole not ascende. but þoruȝ þe help of element of watir. brynge aȝen euerych into 5 beynge wip þe vessel of circulacioun as tofore / or ellis reetifie, makynge oon ascende .7 tymes bi an opir / but first 3e moste þe riȝt blak erþe of oon hide\* nature, in þe furneys of glas mon\*, or ellis reuerberacioun, xxj. dayes caleyne / And for a cause I speke to 3ou nomore of this science. but ioie 3e, and thanke oure glorious lord god of þese þingis þat 3e haue had.

The science to fixe alle erpely þingis in nostra 5<sup>ta</sup> essencia, þat is to seie, oure heuene, þat by her influence þei may 3eue þerto þer propertees and her hid vertues / oure glorious god haþ 3eue sich a uertu to oure quinta essence. þat it may drawe out of euery matier of fruyȝt / tree / rote / flour. herbe / fleisch, seed and spice / And euery medicynable þing. alle þe vertues, propirtees, and naturis, þe whiche god made in hem. and þat wipinne .iiij. houris.

Now I haue schewid 3ou a souereyn prinȝtee, how þat 3e may wip oure heuene drawe out euery 5 essencia from alle þingis aforescid / þerfore alle necessarie þingis to euery syrup putte yn oure 5 essencie, and wipinne .iiij. houris þat watir schal be sich a sirup, vnderstonde wel, bettir by an hundrid part by cause of oure 5 essencie þan it \*schulde be wipoute it / And

To separate fire from the earth, put 4 lbs. of water on 1 lb. of earth; place it in the Marian bath for 7 days; then in hot flames; red water shall ascend and black earth fall. Put the red water into the stiller; pure water shall rise; red water, or fire, shall remain; so you have the 4 Elements separate.

Distil each into its Quinte Essence, or rectify it, and

[\* of vnkinde natuer. Harl. 853.]

[\* of glasse made. Harl. 853.]

thank our glorious God for this bit of knowledge.

To fix all earthly things in our Quinte Essence.

God has given it the power of drawing all the virtues out of every thing in 3 hours.

Put therefore every thing necessary for any syrup into our Quinte Essence, and in 3 hours it shall be 100 times better than before.

[\* Fol. 19.

Whatever  
medicines are  
put into our  
Quinte Es-  
sence,

so I seie of medicyns comfortatyues. digestyues. laxatyues. re-  
striktyues. and alle opere ; forwhy. if 3e putte seedis or flouris.  
fruyztis. leeuës. spicis. coold. hoot. sweet. sour. moist, do þei  
good or yuel, into oure 5 essence. forsoþe sich 5 essence 3e  
schulen haue þefore. oure 5 essence is þe instrument of alle  
vertues of þing transmutable if þei be putt in it, encreessynge  
an hundrid foold her worchingis //

it increases  
their power a  
hundred fold.

End of Part I.

Explicit *pars prima tractatus quinte essence* :



## BOOK II.

Here bigynneth the secunde book of medicyns / The first medicyn is to reduce an oold feble euangelik man to þe firste strenkþe of ʒongþe / Also to restore aʒen his nature þat is lost. and to lenkþe his lijf in greet gladnesse and perfizte heele vnto þe laste teerme of his lijf þat is sett of god / ʒe schal take oure 5<sup>ta</sup> essencie aforeseid, þat is to seye, mannys heuene. and þerinne putte a litil quantite of 5 essencia of gold and of peerl. and þe oolde feble man schal vse þis deuyndrynk at morn and at euen, ech tyme a walnote schelle fulle / and wipinne a fewe dayes he schal so hool þat he schal fele him silf of þe statt and þe strenkþe of xl ʒeer. and he schal haue greet ioie þat he is come to þe statt of ʒongþe. And whanne his ʒongþe is recouerid, and his nature restorid, and heelpþe had, it is nedeful þat litil and seelde he vse 5 essence / Also it is nedeful þat he vse ofte good wyne at his mete and at þe soper, in þe which be fixid þe 5. essence of gold as I tauʒte ʒou tofore.

The secunde \*medicyn is to heele a man, and make hym lyue, þat is almoost consumed in nature, and so nyʒ deed þat he is forsake of lechis. but if it be þe laste teerme of his lijf sett of god. ʒe schal ʒeue him oure quinte essence of gold wip a litil quantite of watir of celendoynd ʒ[c]drawe, and meynge it wip þe opere þingis aforeseid / and anoon as þe sike hath reseeyued it into his stomak, it ʒeneþ to þe herte influence of naturel heete and of lijf. and þanne ʒe schal se him rise vp and speke, and wondirfully be comfortid and strenkpid þerby // þanne comforte him wip ministracioun of oure quinte essence afore seid, and he schal be al hool / but if it be so þat god wole algatis þat he schal die / And I seie to ʒou truly, þat þis is þe hizeste maistric þat may be in transmutacioun of kynde. for riʒt fewe lechis now lyuyng knowe þis priuytee.

*To restore an old euangelic man to the strength of his youth.*

Give him our Quinte Essence with some of that 1<sup>ma</sup>. Me. of Gold and Pearl,

a walnut-shell full at morn and eve. In a few days he shall feel only 40 years old. Then let him take little of our Quinte Essence, only that of Gold in good wine at dinner and supper.

2<sup>da</sup>. Me. [<sup>\*</sup> Fol. 19b.]

*To cure a man given up by his doctors.*

Give him Quinte Essence of Gold with celandine water,

and he shall rise up and speak. Then comfort him with our Quinte Essence, and he shall be cured, unless God wills he shall die. Few doctors now know this highest secret.

3<sup>ia</sup>. Me.

*To cure the Leprosy that is caused by rotten humours.*

Use our Quinte Essence, with those of Gold and Pearl;

(or Burning Water, if you have no Quinte Essence.)

Wash the leper with strawberry or mulberry water; this

[\* Fol. 20.]

is of great virtue,

but is much increased by our Quinte Essence.

4<sup>ta</sup>. Me.

*To cure Palsy, which comes from viscous humours closing the passages of motive power.*

Blessed be God, our Quinte Essence will restore the paralytic. Fix in it the Quinte Essence of euphorbium and the like; and, if God will, the palsied man shall be whole, if you make him a stew of ivy and sage.

Failing Quinte Essence, let him drink Burning Water

The bridde medicyn is to cure þe lepre þat is causid of corrupcioun and putrifaccioun of ony of þe principal humouris of man. but not þe lepre þat cometh to man of kynde of þe fadir and of þe modir leprous. for it is callid morbus hereditus. ne þe lepre þat is sent af god by his plage. but þat þat is causid oonly of rotun humouris / take oure 5 essence aforeseid. wip þe quinte essence of goold and peerl, a litil quantite at oonys, and vse it in maner as I seide afore / and wipinne a fewe daies he schal be partily hool þerof. and if 3e haue non preparate redy oure 5 essence. þanne take in þe stide þerof fyn brennyng watir. but þat oper is bettere.

Also, drawe a water of þe fruyt of strawbery or mulbery tree. whanne it is ripe, and waische þe lepre þerwip. þis watir is of so greet vertu. for a souereyn maistir took it a leprous \*womman. þat wip þe waischinge oonly of þis watir, withynne schort tyme was maad al hool / but sikirly þe vertu þerof is myche worth if it be meygid with oure 5 essence, or ellis brennyng watir. and þanne it schal be no nede to vse in þis perilous cure venemys, as summe lechis doon.

The 4 medicyn is to cure palsie vniuersel. Forsoþe alle philosophoris seyn þat þe palesye vniuersel cometh of ha-boundaunce of viscous humouris closyng þe metis of vertu animale, sensityue, and motyue. And þerfore it is necessarie þat þo þingis þat schal cure þis sijknes be temperate, hoot, and moist, and a litil attractyue, and to þe synous confortatyue / Therfore, blessid be god, makere of kynde, þat ordeynede for þe man paralitike oure 5 essence aforeseid, þat souereynly to him com-fortyng. restoryng. and temperatly worchyng / þerfore fixe þerinne þe 5 essence of þo laxatyues þat purgen flewme and viscous humouris. as a litil of euphorbie, or turbit, or sambucy. and þanne wipoute doute, if god wole, þe paralitik man schal be hool wip comfortyng and restoryng of kynde. if 3e make him a stewe hoot and moist with herbis. þat is to seye. eerbe yue, and sauge, þat haue an heuenly strenkþe to comforte þe joynctis, and þe senewis, and þe vertu motyue. and if 3e haue not redi preparate oure 5 essence, þanne take fyn brennyng watir til it

be redy, and lete þe pacient drynke þerof a litil in fyn wiyn. and also he schal waische al his body and his extremytees wip brennynge watir ofte tymes. and lete him vse þis a good while, and he schal be hool. /

in fine wine,  
and wash all  
over with  
burning  
water.

\* The .5. medicyn for a man þat is almoost al consumed, and waastid in al his body, and riȝt leene, as þat man þat hath þe tisik and þe etik / Forsoþe þe verry cure to heele him is oure 5 essence / Forwhi. it comfortiþ þe feble nature. and þe nature þat is lost it restoriþ, and so restorid it preserueþ / And þerfore if 3e wol restore þe fleisch of a leene mannys body almoost consumed away. drawe þanne a watir of celidoyne, and take þerof a litil quantite, and meynge wip oure 5 essence if 3e haue it redy, or brennynge watir in stide þerof. and 3eue it him to drinke, and wipinne fewe dayes he schal be wondirfully restorid and fat.

[\* Fol. 20b.]  
5. Me.

To fallen lean  
and consump-  
tive men.

Mix with our  
Quinte Es-  
sence

a little celan-  
dine water ;

give it the  
patient, and  
he shall soon  
be wonder-  
fully fat.

The .6. medicyn for passiouns of frenesie. foly. ymagynaciouns and noyous vexaciouns of deuelis, and also for þe goute als weel hoot as coold. certeyn experience techiþ þat colerik men 3eueþ to summe ymagynaciouns. and sanguen men ben ocupied aboute summe opere ymagynaciouns. and ȝitt flewmatik men aboute opere / but þo men þat habounde in blak coler, þat is, malencoly, ben occupied a þousand part wip mo þouȝtis. þan ben men of ony oper complexioun / Forwhi. þat humour of blak coler is so noyous þat if it a-bounde and a-sende vp to þe heed. it troublþ alle þe myȝtis of þe brayn, engendrynge noyous ymagynaciouns, bryngyng yn horrible þouȝtis boþe wakyng and slepinge ; and sicke maner of men ben born vnder þe constillacioun of saturne, the wickide planete / Forsoþe to sicke men deuelis wole gladly appere, and minister to hem\* her priuy temptaciouns wipinne þe cours of her þouȝtis, and þese men þus\* turmentid wip þe passiouns of malencoly comounly speke wip hem, stryue and dispute wip hem silf whanne þei be a-loone. þat ofte tymes opere folk may heere it / These maner of men þat ben þus turmentid, as weel by passioun of malencoly as of deuelis, ofte tymes falle in dispeir, and at þe laste sle hem silf / þe perfȝt cure of alle þese is oure 5 essencie auri et

.6. Me.

To cure Fren-  
sy, Gout, and  
troubles from  
Devils.

Dark melan-  
choly men are  
troubled more  
with anxieties  
than any  
others,

being born  
under Saturn,  
the wicked  
planet.

[\* MS. hom]  
Devils gladly  
appear to  
them and  
tempt them,

[\* Fol. 21.]

so that they  
often fall into  
despair and  
kill them-  
selves.

The cure is  
our Quinte

Essence of  
Gold and  
Pearls, with a  
little senna or  
lapis lazuli.

Burning  
Water, with a  
purge, will  
also cure these  
diseases.

These medi-  
cines put  
away wicked  
thoughts, and  
bring in  
merry ones ;  
they dispel  
devils' tempt-  
ations and  
despair, and  
bring a man  
to reason.  
Saturn is an  
enemy to all  
creatures,

and has power  
over foul  
[\* Fol. 21b.]  
solitary  
places, as  
*Vitas Patrum*  
says.

The Moon too  
is full of bane.

Jupiter and  
Sol, on the  
other hand,

make devils  
flee,

and betoken  
the joy of  
heaven,

as Saturn and  
the Moon do  
hell.

*perelarium*, or ellis brennynge watir in stide þerof, in þe whiche  
3e fixe gold as it is aforesaid. wherinne be putt a litil of sennē or  
watir of funter, or poudre of lapis lasuly, or ellis medullam ebuli,  
and vse it discreetly. forwhy. not al oonly oure quinte essence  
*auri et perelarium* heelith þese disesis. / but also brennynge  
watir in þe which gold is fixid, hecliþ hem, wiþ a litil of þo  
þingis þat purgen and casten out blak coler superflue, and heliþ  
þe splene.

Forsope þese medicyns puttīþ away wickid þouȝtis and an  
heuy herte malencolious, þei gladith and elense þe brayn and  
alle hise myȝtis, and brynge yn gladnes and merye þouȝtis.  
þei putte away also þe craft of þe feendis temptaciouns, and  
ymagynaciouns of dispeir þei distroie, and make a man to forȝete  
almaner of yueles. and naturally bryngiþ him aȝen to resonable  
witt. and for as myche as saturne þe planete naturally ys coold  
and drye. and is enemye to al kynde / Forwhy, euery snow.  
euery hayl, euery tempest, and also þe humour of malencoly  
comeþ of him. and he haþ his influence vpon derk leed, and  
vpon derk \*placis vnder þe erf<sup>1</sup>, foule and stynkyng. and derke  
wodis, and vpon foule, horrible, solitarie placis, as it is preued in  
*vitas patrum*. þat is to seye, in lyues and colaciouns of fadris /  
And also þe moone, naturely coold and moist, haþ his influence  
vpon þe nyȝt, and vpon myche moisture, and vpon þe placis  
whanne 4. weyes metiþ togidere. forsoþe in alle sicke placis þei  
wole a-bide and schewe hem to her foloweris / but forsoþe þo  
þingis þat ben of þe nature of Iubiter and of sol, goode planetis,  
arne displesynge to him, and contrarie, and naturally. deuclis fle  
awei fro hem. for þei haue greet abhominacioun of þer vertuous  
influence / þerfore it schewiþ weel þat þo þingis þat ben in þis  
world. summe þer ben þat bitokene þe glorious yoie of heuene.  
and summe þing þat figure þe derknesse of euerlastynge peynes  
of helle / Forsope þe sunne and iubiter, goode planetis, and  
gold, pure metal, and alle pure þingis þat gladen a man, figu-  
rynge by resoun þe ioie of heuene / and blak Saturne, and þe  
spotty moone, figure and bitokene þe condicioun of helle / and

<sup>1</sup> Erf = erþe.

sip þat deuclis be dampned, *and* ful of wreche of helle. þerfore þei hate þe clenness *and* þe ioie of oure lord god *and* of hise seyntis / also þei haten þe sunne and his cleernes, and pure þingis þat maken a man glad. and naturally it plesip hem to dwelle in derk, *and* in blak, horrible, stynkyng places, in heynesse, wreche, *and* malencoly, *and* in þo þingis þat pretende þe condicioun of helle / And sip oure 5. essence aforesaid is so heuenly a þing, *and* by sotil craft \*brouȝt to so myche swetnes. it is so souereyn a medicyn þat it may weel be likned to þe ioie of paradise. forwhi, it makip a man list, iocunde, glad, and merie, *and* puttip away heynesse<sup>1</sup>, angre, malencoly, *and* wrappe, þe whiche þat deuclis loue / *et ideo nostra 5 essencia digne vocatur celum humanum* / Also if a man be traueylid wip a feend, and may not be delyuerid fro him. lete him drinke a litil quantite of oure 5 essence, wip 5 essence of gold *and* peerl, and wip an eerbe callid ypericon, i.[e.] fuga demonum, and þe seed þerof grounden *and* aftirward distillid, *and* þe watir þerof a litil quantite medlid wip þe opere 5<sup>tis</sup> essenciis. *and* anoon þe deucl wole fle away fro him *and* fro his hous.

Also for þe goute, hoot or cold, þe pacient schal drynke oure 5. essence wip a litil quantite at oonys of þe letuarie de succo rosarum. and lete him vse þis letuarie a litil at oonys ech opere day. til superflue humouris be purgid / but he schal vse euery day a litil of oure 5. essence with 5 essence of gold *and* peerle, *and* wipinne a fewe dayes þe pacient schal be hool. //

The .7. medicyn, for to heele yecche, *and* for to distrie lies<sup>2</sup> þat ben engendrid of corrupt humouris. take oure 5 essence bi him silf a-loone and vse to drynke þerof a litil quantite at oonys / and take also a litil quantite of Mer[cury?]. *and* mortific it wip fastyng spotil, *and* medle it wip a good quantite

Devils hate the joy of God and the brightness of the sun; they delight in stinking places, and melancholy, and hell-like things.

But our Quinte Essence is heavenly, [\* Foi. 22.] like the joy of Paradise, and drives away anger and all that devils love, so that it is fitly called 'Man's Heaven.'

To deliver a man from a devil,—give him some of our Quinte Essence with that of gold and pearl, and St. John's Wort water: at once the devil will flee away.

To cure the Gout.

Take a little Quinte Essence and Rose-juice electuary, and use daily our Quinte Essence with that of Gold and Pearl.

.7. Me.

To cure the Itch and destroy Lice.

Drink Quinte Essence. Mix Mercury with spittle,

<sup>1</sup> heynesse MS.

<sup>2</sup> "A lous is a worme with many fete, & it commeth out of the filthi and onclene skynne, & oftentimes for faute of atendaunce they come out of the flesshe through the skynne or wet holes.

To withdrye them / The best is for to wasshe the oftentimes, and to chaunge oftentimes clene linnen."—*The noble lyfe and nature of man, Of bestes, serpentys, fowles, and fishes y<sup>e</sup> be moste knowen.* Capitulo. C. xix.

Stavesacre  
and Burning  
Water. Wash  
the body or  
head where  
the itch and  
lice are.

[\* Fol. 22b.]

.8. Me.

To cure Quar-  
tan Fever.

The Quartan  
arises from  
too much  
black choler,

and lasts a  
year or more.

To cure it  
soon,  
drink our  
Quinte Es-  
sence ;

if you have it  
not, put pith  
of white dwarf  
elder in Burn-  
ing Water,  
and take a  
walnut-shell  
full morning  
and evening.

Or, take what-  
ever purges  
black choler,  
put it into  
Burning  
Water; make  
small pellets  
of it, and take  
one, and then  
two, gradu-  
ally.

[\* Fol. 23.]

It is said that  
a tooth from a  
live beast  
heals the  
Quartan, and  
the juice of  
Hen-bit or  
Chickweed  
put in a man's  
nostrils.

of poudre of stafi-sagre, *and* panne put it in to a greet quantite of brennyng water, *and* panne waische al his body, or ellis þe heed where þe icche *and* þe lies ben. *and* vse þis medicyn .2. or 3. *and* þe sijk \*man schal be hool.

The .8. medicyn for to cure the quarteyn and alle þe passiouns þat comeþ of malencoly in mannys body and þe maistrise to purge malencoly. and 3e schal vndirstonde þat þe quarteyn is gendrid of myche haboundaunce of malencolye þat is corruppid withynne þe body, and for þis humour is erþely, coold, *and* drie, of þe nature of slowe saturne. þerfore þe accesse of þis sijknes ben slowe, and it durip comounly yn a man a 3eer or more, and it puttþ fro him gladnesse, *and* bryngþ yn heuynes more þan opere feueris do / If 3e wole heele þis sijknes in schort tyme, lete þe pacient vse to drynke oon 5 essence, and he schal be al hool hastily / forwhi ; it consumeþ þe corrupt superflue humouris, *and* reducit nature to equalite, and bryngþ yn gladnesse, *and* chasþ a-wey heuynes *and* malencolie. and if it so be þat 3e haue nouzt oure 5 essence / panne take j lb of þe beste brennyng watir. and þerinne putte medullam ebuli. and namely, þe white, if 3e may haue it / of þis watir 3eue to þe pacient, morowe and euen, a walnot schelle ful at oonys. and he schal be al hool / or ellis þus. take what þing 3e wole þat purgþ malencolye. and putte a litil þerof into brennyng watir. *and* vse þat laxatif maad into smale pelotis, wijsly resceyuyng riȝt a litil at oonys, as oon litil pelot, and preue þerby how it worchip. panne anoper tyme .ij. at oonys, if it be nede / so þat þe mater be a litil digestid and a litil egestid. for bettere it is to worche a litil *and* a litil at oonys, þan sodeynly greue þe nature. forwhi, two litil pelotis laxatif meyngid wiþ brennyng watir \*wole worche more myȝtily þan .8. pelotis wole do bi hem silf / Also philosophoris seyn þat a toop drawe out from a quyke beest, born vpon a man, delyuerþ fro þe quarteyn / Also þei seyn þat if þe yuis of þe eerbe þat is callid morsus galline rubri be putt in hise nose-þrillis whanne he bigynneth to suffre þe accesse of þe quarteyn, he schal be hool, wiþ þe grace of god.

The medicyn to heele þe feure contynuele; alle philosophoris seyn þat þe feure contynuele is gendrid of putrifaccioun of blood and of corrupecioun of humouris in it / þerfore þe cure þerof is to purge blood. and to putte away þe corrupecioun of it, *and* þe humoris vneue to make eue, þe nature lost to restore, and so restorid to kepe / Forsope alle þese þingis worcheþ oure *quinte essence*. and þerfore it curiþ *perfiztly* þe feure contynuele / and þouȝ brennynge watir caste out fro blood watry humouris and corrupt. ȝitt take it nouȝt in þis cure / forwhi; þouȝ brennynge watir be .7. tymes distillid, ȝitt it is [not] fully depurid fro his brennynge heete, *and* þe .4. elementis / but siþ oure 5. essence is not hoot, ne moist, coold, ne drie. as ben þe 4. elementis / þerfore it hecliþ *perfiztly* þe contynuel feure; namely wiþ *commixtioun* of þe 5 essence of gold *and* peerle / and if ȝe wole strenkþe ȝoure medicyn, þanne putte yn oure 5. essence a litil quantite of pulpa cassie fistule / or ellis þe iuyes of þe eerbe *mercuriale*. *and* if it so be þat opere humouris habounde to myche *with* blood. þanne take þo laxatyues þat kyndely wole \*purge hem, as comoun bookis of fisik declareþ.

9<sup>ua</sup>. Me.

*To cure continual Fever.*

It arises from putrefaction of blood and corruption of humours.

Our Quinte Essence cures this, (tho' Burning Water does not.)

if mixed with Quinte Essence of Gold and Pearl,

and a little Cassia or Herb Mercury.

[\* Fol. 23b.]

The 10. medicyn to cure þe feure terciā, þe which is causid of putrifaccioun, or reed coler to myche haboundynge / to cure þees sijknes tak oure 5 essence, or ellis fyn brennynge watir. but þe firste is bettere. and putte þerinne a litil of rubarbe or of summe oper laxatiue þat purgiþ reed coler. and a greet quantite of watir of endyue. and vse þis medicyn at morowe *and* euen. and þe pacient schal be hool wipoute doute.

10. Me.

*To cure Tertian Fever.*

Take Quinte Essence, with Rhubarb and Endive water, morn and eve.

The 11. medicyn is for to heele þe feure cotidian. þe which is causid of putrifaccioun of flewme to haboundynge / and siþ flewme is coold and moist. oure 5 essence. (and in his absence take good brennynge watir.) hap strenkþe and vertu to consume þe rotun watery inordinat and to myche coold humidite / þerfore take oure 5 essence or brennynge watir. and putte þerinne a litil of euforbij. turbit, or sambuci, or sum oper þing þat purgiþ flewme, and vse it morowe and eue, *and* þe pacient schal be hool.

11. Me.

*To cure Daily Fever.*

Take our

Quinte Essence, and a little Euphorbium, &c.

.12. Me.

*To cure Ague  
Fever and  
Lunacy.*

This fever  
comes of cho-  
ler inflamed,

and is accom-  
panied by  
lightheaded-  
ness.

[\* Fol. 24.]

As the patient  
sees black,  
gold, or red  
things, so the  
different hu-  
mours are in-  
flamed.

Burning  
Water should  
not be taken,

but Quinte  
Essence of  
Gold and  
Pearl should,  
with that of  
Rose water,  
Violet, &c.

*To cure or as-  
swage Frenzy  
and Madness.*

Wrap the  
head and feet  
in, and smell  
at, Popilion  
(with Vinegar  
mixed), and  
Rue.

13<sup>ma</sup>. Me.

*To cure  
Cramp.*

Use our  
Quinte Es-  
sence or Burn-  
ing Water.

The .12. medicyn for to cure þe feuere agu, and þe lunatik man and womman / discreet maistris seyn. þat þe feuere agu. comounly is causid of a uyolent reed coler adust, and of blood adust, and of blak coler adust, and sumtyme of oon of þese adust, and sumtyme of two togidere. and sumtyme of .3. togidere / and þefore þe feuere agu is þe posityue degree. and in þe superlatyue degree, comparatif gree *and* superlatif gree / For þe feuere agu hap comounly alienacioun of witt, *and* schewynge of þingis of fantasy / And 3e schal knowe weel whiche ben þe humouris adust þat causen þe feuere, be þese \*tokenes / Forwhi, if þe pacient seiþ þat he seep blak þingis. þanne blak coler, þat is, malencolie is adust / *and* if he se þingis of gold / reed coler is adust / if reed þingis, and schewynge of blood. þanne blood is adust / And if he seiþ þat he seep alle þese .iij. þingis. þanne alle þe humouris ben adust / For as myche as brennyng watir ascendip to þe heed. and gladly wole a man drynke / And siþ þat feuere agu. regnep in þe regioun of þe heed / þe philosophoris counceilis þat þe pacient schal not resceyue it in þis sijknese / but it is nedeful þat he take oure 5 essence af gold and of peerl, meynying þe 6 part of 5 essence of watir of rose, violet, borage, and letuse / and þanne 3e schulen haue an heuenly medicyn to cure perfiztly þis sijknese.

For to cure þe frenesye and woodnes, or ellis at þe leeste to swage it / take a greet quantite of popilion. and þe beste vynegre þat 3e may haue. and a good quantite of rewe domestik, weel brayed, and meyngid wiþ þese forseid þingis, and biclippe þe heed and þe feet of þe pacient with þis medicyn. and sum þerof putte to his nose-brillis. þis medicyn anoon puttip away þe frenesye *and* þe schewynge of fantasies / it curip also wode men *and* lunatike men. and it restorip aȝen witt and discrecioun. *and* makip al hool and weel at eese.

The .13. medicyn is to put a-wey þe craumpe fro a man. for as myche as wise men seyn þat þe craumpe cometh of þe hurtyng *and* þe febilnes of þe senewis, as it schewip sumtyme yn medicyns maad of elebore, þer is no þing þat puttip away þe



craumpe as doip oure 5 essence aforeseid, or ellis \* brennynge watir in stede of it. [\* Fol. 24b.]

The .14. medieyn, to caste out venym fro mannys body / take oure 5 essence, and putte perine fleisch of a cok, neysch soden *and* sotilly brayed, note kirkelis, fyn triacle, radisch, *and* garleek smal brayed, and opere pingis þat ben goode to caste out venym, as comoun bookis of fisik declarip / And also, to comforte þe herte, putte yn oure forseid 5. essence, þe 5. essence of gold and of peerl. and he schal be delyuerid perof *and* be hool.

14<sup>ma</sup>. Me.

*To cast poison out of a man's body.*

Take our Quinte Essence, with cock's flesh, nut-kernels, &c., and Quinte Essence of Gold and Pearls.

The .15. medieyn, to make a man þat is a coward, hardy and strong. and putte a-wey almaner of cowardise and drede / I seye 3ou forsoþe þat no þing may telle alle þe myraclis vertues þat god hap maad in oure 5 essence. and not al oonly in him. but also in to his modir. þat is to seye, fyn brennynge watir; for to cure pis sijksesse. take a litil quantite of oure 5 essence. *and* putte þerto double so myche of brennynge watir. and a litil quantite of þe iuys of eerbe pione and of saffron distillid togidere. and a litil of 5 essence of gold and of peerl, and 3eue it him to drinke. and aftir sodeynly, as it were by myracle, þe coward man schal lese al maner drede and feyntnes of herte. and he schal recouere strenkþe þat ys lost by drede, and take to him hardynesse. and he schal dispise deep. he schal drede no perelis, and passyngly he schal be maad hardy. þis is trewe, for it hap ofte tymes by oolde philosophoris [bene] preued / þerfore it were a greet wisdom þat cristen princis in bateilis aȝen heþene men hadde wiþ hem in tonnes brennynge watir þat þei myȝt take to euery fiztyng man half a riȝt litil cuppe ful perof to drynke in þe bigynnyng of þe batel. *and* þis priuȝte owith to be hid from alle enemyes of þe chirche, and also \* princis and lordis ministringe þese pingis schulde not telle what it is.

15<sup>ma</sup>. Me.

*To make a Coward bold and strong.*

Give him our Quinte Essence with twice as much Burning Water, and a little Peony Juice and saffron. and Quinte Essence of Gold and Pearl. The coward shall lose all faintness of heart, despise death, and dread no perils.

Therefore Christian Princes should have tunis of Burning Water, and give every fighting man a cup before battle with  
[\* Fol. 25.] the heathen.

The .16. medieyn aȝens þe feuere pestilenciale, and þe maistrie to cure it; forsoþe holy scripture seiþ þat summe tymes oure lord god sendip pestilence to sle summe maner of peple, as it is seid deutronomium 28 in þis maner “ Si

16<sup>ma</sup>. Me.

*To cure Pestilential Feer (when not sent as a punishment by God).*

God says in Deuteronomy xxviii. that if men will not hear His voice and obey His commandments, pestilences shall come on them.

These plagues a man would be a great fool to presume to cure;

but all other pestilences

from evil planets may be cured by our Quinte [Nota bene.] Essence with Aloes, Euphorbium, &c., [\* Fol. 25b.]

and a laxative Quinte Essence that will send the patient to stool once a day.

He must also take every morning an egg-shell-full of Burning Water, and 2 or 3 pestilence pills in our Quinte Essence, and smoke his

audire nolueris<sup>1</sup> vocem domini dei tui, ut custodias *et* facias omnia mandata eius, veniant super te omnes maledicciones; iste maledictus eris in ciuitate &c.” *et* infra. “ad-iungat tibi pestilenciam donec consumat te de terra, percuciat te dominus egestate, febre, *et* frigore, ardore *et* estu, *et* aere corrupto ac rubigine, *et* persequatur donec pereas” hec *ibidem*, *et* infra “percuciat te dominus vlcere egipti *et* partem corporis per quam stercora egerantur. scabie quoque, *et* prurigine, ita ut curari nequeas, percuciat te dominus necessitate ac furore mentis” // Therefore a gret fool were he þat wolde presume to cure þese plagis of pestilence þat ben vncurable, þat ben sent of god to ponysche synne // Also 3e schal vndirstonde þat men may die in .iiij. maners. in oon maner by naturel deef in þe teerme þat is sett of god / In anopir maner bi violent deef. and also in þe .iiij. maner occasionally wipinne þe teerme þat is sett of god. as þo men þat to myche replecioun, or to greet abstynence or by disperacioun, or ellis by neeligence, sle him silf / but sikirly alle opere maner of feueris pestilence þat god suffrip to come to mankynde by perilous influence of yuele planetis, by þe grace of god *and* good gouernaunce may be curid partialy wip oure 5. essence. and þerinne putte a litil of aloes epatik *and* euforbij, *and* a litil of ierapigra galieni *and* of 5 essence, of þe rote of lilie and also of gold *and* peerle, capilli veneris \**and* ysope. for þese pingis ben nedeful to sicke feueris *and* apostemes / it is nedeful also þat wip þese pingis þer be sich a quinta essencia laxatyue þat wole purge þe superflue humouris þat abounde. and þat þe patient so myche resceyue in a natural day þerof þat he may go weel oonys to sege. and so lete him vse þis laxatif .3. in þe woke; But be weel war þat he take wip oure quinta essencia but riȝt a litil quantite of þe laxatif at oonys, as I tolde ȝou tofore, for peril þat miȝte bifalle. *and* euery day take he by þe morowe an eye-schelle ful of good brennyng watir, and þe corrupt eyr schal not noye him, *and* also vse in þe dayes. two or þre smale pelotis pestilenciales in oure 5 essencia, or in brennyng watir, *and* al þe hous of þe patient schal be encensid

<sup>1</sup> MS. volueris.

strongly .iij in þe day wiþ frank-encense. mirre. *and* rosyn.  
 terbenty *and* réwe. and þis is perfyzt cure for þe fevere pesti-  
 lence / And þus 3e may wiþ þis 5 essencijs cure alle þese sij-  
 nesses aforeseid, and manye opere, as it were by myracle, if 3e  
 worche disc[r]eetly as I haue toold 3ou tofore / Now here  
 I make an eende of þis tretis þat is clepid þe mooste *and* þe  
 souereyneste secrete of alle secretis. and a passynge tresour  
 þat may nouzt fayle // O quantum malum foret, si hic  
 liber perueniret ad manus hominum mundanorum, ad noticiam  
 tirannorum, et ad seruicium reproborum. quia sicut sancti per  
 hunc librum poterunt continuare opera vite christiani diucius  
 et vehemencius, ita et reprobi possent peruerso vsi diucius  
 perseuerare in malo. ego autem, quantum in me est, propter  
 solos sanctos librum hunc constituo, et ipsum custod[iæ] ihesu  
 Christi commendo nunc et in eternum // = //

house with  
frankincense,  
&c.

Here is an end  
of this most  
sovereign of  
all secrets.

What ills will  
befall if it gets  
into tyrants'  
and repro-  
bates' hands  
and prolongs  
their life in  
evil. I will  
keep it f r  
holy men  
alone; and I  
commend it  
to Christ's  
keeping now  
and ever.

Explicit librum de maximis secretis essencie quinte &c.

## NOTES

### ON THE CHEMISTRY OF THE TEXT

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P. 4. Direction to submit any wine *that is not sour* to distillation. (*Sour* wine is deficient in alcohol; that body having been changed into acetic acid by oxidation.) In the language of the mystical ideas which prevailed in the dawn of Chemistry, the colouring matters, sugar &c. of the wine are called 'the .4. elementis,' or as it were the 'rotten fæces of wine'??

The direction to distill the wine seven times is a good practical suggestion for the obtaining of strong alcohol which will burn well. Then follows a description of the distilling apparatus, which seems to have been arranged, to ensure a very slow distillation, so as to obtain a product as colourless and scentless as possible.

P. 5. The second way to make the Quinte essence depends on distillation of alcohol by means of the heat of fermenting horse-dung; also the fifth manner.

P. 6. The directions for gilding burning water are all nonsense; but as the writer had no means of testing the truth of his statements, they may have been made in good faith.

P. 7. The idea which he expresses, that this gilt burning water will make you well and young, is difficult to explain, except on the assumption that, it being the strongest of alcohol, a very little served to produce that elevation of spirits which seemed to bring back the spring of youth.

P. 7, l. 6 from the bottom. The word *liquibles* in the text does not mean liquids, for a liquid cannot be made hot enough to be *quenched*. If the original *liquibles* cannot be retained I should substitute the word *liquiables*, meaning those things which can

be liquefied by heat. Indeed in the next passage we find stated that if Saturn (the alchemists' mystical name for Lead) be quenched &c., and that if then Mars (Iron) be quenched in the same liquid, it will acquire the softness of Saturn. Or if you quench lead in spirit which has had iron first cooled in it, it becomes hard. .

Of course there is no truth whatever in the above statements.

P. 8. The fire without coals &c. is 'corrosive sublimate,' most probably containing an excess of Sulphuric acid (vitriol) as an impurity. If Copper (Venus) or Tin (Jupiter) be dipt into this solution of mercury they will have a deposit of mercury formed on their surface, which will give them a pearly appearance.

P. 8. To bring Gold into calx. When gold is treated in the way directed, a fine powder of gold of a brown or yellow colour is left. This might readily have been mistaken for a calx by those who had no clear ideas of what calx really was.

P. 9. The departing of gold from silver is essentially the same as the plan practised at the present day.

To get the Quintessence of Gold. I can make nothing of the directions, that is, I cannot see that they (the directions) hide any real truth.

P. 10. How to get the Quintessence of Antimony. I can make nothing of this part, and can only suggest that the vinegar used contained hydrochloric acid, and when distilled with 'Myn Antimony' (native sulphide of antimony) gave a distillate of Chloride of Antimony containing some 'kermes' which is red.

From this point onward there is little or nothing that can be explained by a Chemist.

## GLOSSARY.

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Agu, p. 22, l. 1, 'Intermittent Feaver, commonly called an *Ague*, has certain times of Intermission or ceasing; it begins for the most part with Cold or Shivering, ends in Heat, and returns exactly at set Periods.' *Phillips*.

Aischin, p. 4, l. 10, ashes.

Amphora, p. 11, &c., 'a large vessel which derived its name from its being made with a handle on each side of the neck, from ἀμφί on *both sides*, and φέρω *I carry*.' *Dict. of Gr. and Rom. Ant.*

Anele, p. 6, l. 26, &c., heat?

Apostemes, p. 24, l. 24, imposthumes, boils.

Appeire, p. 3, l. 12, impair, worsen.

Arreins, p. 2, l. 25, spiders.

'Cassia Fistula (Lat.), [p. 21, l. 16], Cassia in the Pipe or Cane, a kind of Reed or Shrub that grows in *India* and *Africa*, bearing black, round, and long Cods, in which is contain'd a soft black Substance, sweet like Honey, and of a purging Quality.' *Phillips*.

Colaciouns, p. 18, l. 21, ?comments, homilies.

Comounne, p. 3, l. 35, communicate.

'Continual Feaver [p. 21] is that whose Fit is continu'd for many Days; having its times of Abatement, and of more Fierceness; altho' it never intermits, or leaves off.' *Phillips*.

Deedly, p. 3, l. 24, liable to death, mortal.

Departynge, p. 5, l. 14, parting, separating.

Depurid, p. 9, l. 27, purified.

Distillatorie, p. 10, l. 24, a still. Randle Holme, (*Academy*, p. 422, col. 2,) speaks of a Still or Distillatory Instrument, and further on, iv., 'He beareth Sable, the Head of a *Distillatory* with 3 pipes; having as many Receivers or Bottles set to them.'

'Ebum or Ebulus (Lat.), [p. 18, l. 3] the Herb *Wall-wort*, *Dane-wort*, or *Dwarf-elder*.' *Phillips*.

Encorpere, p. 13, l. 4, ?mix.

Euforbii, l. 21, l. 3 bot. 'Euphorbia, the *Libyan Ferula*, a Tree or Shrub first found by King *Juba*, and so call'd

- from the Name of his Physician *Euphorbus*.' *Phillips*.  
*Euphorbium*, 'the gummy Juice or Sap of that Tree much us'd in Physick and Surgery.' *Phillips*.
- Funter, p. 18, l. 3. ?
- Fyme, p. 10, l. 2 bot., mud, clay.
- Gerapigra galieni, p. 3, l. 29, *ίερα πικρα Γαληνου*.
- Giltid, p. 7, l. 3, having the properties of gold communicated by it.
- Hide, p. 13, l. 18, ? for *hideos*; compare the Harleian reading 'unkinde.'
- Kynde, p. 1, l. 12, all creatures; l. 13, nature, tone;
- 'Lapis Lazuli [p. 18, l. 3] a kind of Azure or Sky-colour'd Stone, of which the Blew Colour call'd *Ultramarine* is made. . . much us'd in Physick.' *Ph*.
- Lembike, p. 9, l. 2, 'Alembick or Limbeck (Arab.), a Still, a Chymical Vessel used in Distilling, shaped like a Helmet, and towards the Bottom, having a Beak or Nose, about a Foot and a half long, by which the Vapours descend. They are commonly made of Copper tinn'd over on the inside, and often of Glass.' *Phillips*.
- Liquibles, p. 7, l. 6 bot., melt-able metals.
- Lymayl, p. 8, l. 6 bot., Fr. '*limaille*': f. File-dust, pinne-dust.' *Cotgrave*.
- Marien Bath, p. 12, l. 7 bot., Balneum Mariæ, a Chemist's bath. '*Bain de Marie*. Mari-ries bath; a cauldron, or kettle full of hot water.' *Cotgrave*.
- Medle, p. 19 last line, mix.
- Medulla, p. 18, l. 3, pith.
- Mercasite, p. 10, l. 14, 'a kind of Mineral Stone, hard and brittle, partaking of the Nature and Colour of the Metal it is mixed with; some call it a Fire-Stone.' *Phillips*.
- Mercuriale, mercurie, p. 21, 19, &c., 'Mercury. . . among Chymists. . . signifies Quick-silver; and is also taken for one of their active Principles, commonly call'd *Spirit*. . . Also the Name of a purging Herb of which there are two sorts, viz. *Good Harry* and *Dog's Mercury*.'
- Morsus Gallinæ, the Herb Hen-bit or Chick-weed. *Phillips*.
- Mortifie, p. 19 last line, 'Among Chymists to change the outward Form or Shape of a Mixt Body; as when Quick-silver, or any other Metal, is dissolved in an *acid Menstruum*.' *Phillips*.
- Neischede, p. 7, l. 2 bot., made nesh or soft.
- Oo, p. 4, one.
- Popilion, p. 22, l. 24; 'Populeum, an Ointment made of Poplar buds, of a cooling and allaying Quality.' *Phillips*. Fr. '*Populeon*. Popilion, a Pom-pillion; an ointment made of blacke Poplar buds.' *Cot*.

'Quartan Ague [p. 20] is that whose Fit returns every fourth Day.' *Phillips*.

Quintessence is defined by Phillips as 'the purest Substance drawn out of any Natural Body; a Medicine made of the efficacious active Particles of its Ingredients separated from all *Fæces* or Dregs; the Spirit, chief Force, or Virtue of any thing.'

Reme, p. 9, l. 5 bot., A.-S. *reoma*, a strap, thong.

Reparale, p. 8, l. 21, ?

Restreyne, p. 7, l. 8, retain.

Reward, p. 2, l. 4, 7, regard.

Rotombe, p. 10, l. 3 bot., a chemist's vessel of some kind.

Sambucy, p. 16, l. 7 bot., 'Sambucus, the Elder-Tree; a Shrub of very great use in Physic.' *Phillips*.

Stafisagre, p. 20, l. 1, 'Staphisagria, the Herb Staves-acre, or Lice-bane.' *Phillips*.

'Tertian Ague or Feaver [p. 21] is that which intermits entirely, and returns again every third Day with its several Symptoms at a set Time.' *Phillips*.

To, p. 1, l. 16, too.

Triacle, p. 23, l. 5, cordial, 'Treacle, a Physical Composition, made of Vipers and other Ingredients.' *Phillips*.

Turbit, p. 16, l. 7 bot., 'Turbit, Tripoly, an Herb called Turbith, or blew Camomel.'

'Turbith, an Herb so call'd by the Arabians, which grows in Cambaya, Surat, and other parts of Asia; a dangerous Drug upon account of its violent purging Quality.' *Ph*.

Woodnes, p. 22, l. 23, wildness, madness.

Ypericon, p. 19, l. 16, 'Hypericon, *St. John's-Wort*, an excellent Herb for Wounds, and to provoke Urine.' *Ph*.



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